8. (Amended) The microporous polyolefin membrane according to Claim 1, 3 or 4, wherein said polyolefin composition (B) is composed of an ultra-high-molecular-weight polyolefin having a weight-average molecular weight of 5×10^5 or more, high-density polyethylene and polymer for giving a shut-down property, said polymer for giving a shut-down property being selected from the group consisting of low-density polyethylene, polyethylene having a weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 to 4,000 and melting point of 80 to 130°C, and ethylene-based copolymer having a melting point of 95 to 125°C and produced in the presence of a single-site catalyst.

9. (Amended) The microporous polyolefin membrane according to one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the following relationships hold for $r(TD) = \cos^2TD(b)/\cos^2MD(b)$ and $r(MD) = \cos^2ND(b)/\cos^2MD(b)$, defined by X-ray analysis of the microporous polyolefin membrane:

$$100 \geq r(TD) \geq 1.3$$

$$100 \geq r(MD) \geq 3.5$$

$$1.0 > \cos^2ND(b) \geq 0.45$$

10. (Amended) The microporous polyolefin membrane according to one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein said crystal lamellas inclined at said angle θ of 80 to 100° to the membrane surface account for at least 70% of the total lamellas.

14. (Amended) The method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane according to Claim 11, wherein said polyolefin composition (B) contains an ultra-high-molecular-weight polyolefin having a weight-average molecular weight of 7×10^5 or more at 1 weight % or more.

17. (Amended) The method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane according to one of Claims 11 to 14, wherein said polyolefin (A) or polyolefin for said composition (B) is polypropylene or polyethylene.

18. (Amended) The method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane according to one of Claims 11 to 14, wherein the following relationships hold for $r(MD) = \cos^2ND(b)/\cos^2MD(b)$ and $r(TD) = \cos^2ND(b)/\cos^2TD(b)$, defined by X-ray analysis of the microporous polyolefin membrane:

$$100 \geq r(TD) \geq 1.3$$

$$100 \geq r(MD) \geq 3.5$$

$$1.0 > \cos^2ND(b) \geq 0.45$$

19. (Amended) The method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane according to one of Claims 11 to 14, wherein said polyolefin composition (B) is composed of a polyolefin having a weight-average molecular weight of 5×10^5 or more and polyolefin having a weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 to 4,000 and melting point of 80 to 130°C.

20. (Amended) The method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane according to Claim 11, 13 or 14, wherein said polyolefin composition (B) is composed of (B-1) an ultra-high-molecular-weight polyolefin having a weight-average molecular weight of 5×10^5 or more and (B-2) a polyolefin having a weight average molecular weight of 5×10^5 or less, the (B-2)/(B-1) weight ratio being 0.2 to 20.

21. (Amended) The method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane according to Claim 11, 13 or 14, wherein said polyolefin composition (B) is composed of a polyolefin having a weight-average molecular weight of 5×10^5 or more and polypropylene having a weight-average molecular weight of 3×10^5 or more.

22. (Amended) The method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane according to Claim 11, 13 or 14, wherein said polyolefin composition (B) is composed of a polyolefin having a weight-average molecular weight of 5×10^5 or more and ethylene-based copolymer having a melting point of 95 to 125°C and produced in the presence of a single-site catalyst.

23. (Amended) The method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane according to Claim 11, 13 or 14, wherein said polyolefin composition (B) is composed of 1 to 69 weight % of an ultra-high-molecular-weight polyolefin having a weight-average molecular weight of 7×10^5 or more, 98 to 1 weight % of a high-density polyethylene, and 1 to 30 weight % of a low-density polyetheylene.

24. (Amended) The method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane according to one of Claims 11 to 14, wherein stretching said gel-like article is an essential step.